

AFU NEWSLETTER

Issue 49 – June 2005 -- ISSN 0283-6378

Published by: Archives for UFO Research Foundation (AFU), P O Box 11027, S-600 11 Norrköping, Sweden

New additions to the AFU archives

Archives for UFO Research has a steady stream of incoming materials. We are always, it seems, *thinking* about future rearrangements of the collections. We always try to make the most of our - relatively meagre - basement facilities in three different places (within a few hundred meters of each other). Finding new ways of arranging the materials for better order and retrieval... With everything under one roof our work would be much easier!!

In the new century, since year 2000, we have had much of our focus on *the book library and magazine (serials) collection*. In just a few years we have acquired about 2.000 book titles, through different collections we've taken over as donations, as exchanges, as pure acquisitions (against collected money), and through sale & purchase on eBay.

This focus must now shift, I believe, *for a few years*, to other parts of the collection, *if we are to live up to what we think this archive should be about in the long run*.

We have large collections of personal & organisation files, UFO report files, audio & video tapes, and pictures, that all need attention to become more useful parts of our folkloric archive. Without sorting and cataloguing to digital databases, these parts of AFU are more or less unusable. We have about 10.000 Swedish and Danish UFO reports to work on, and at least 2.000 audio cassette tapes, just to name two examples.

One of the more important donations, this winter, came from librarian *Sven Andersson* of Falköping. He donated about 200 extra books from his book shelves to AFU, plus a number of magazines. The books we received resulted in fifteen new titles/editions, plus a large number of 2nd and 3rd copies for the library. Sven has been a supporter of AFU since our early days and besides being a ufologist, he has a detailed expertise in old, antiquarian books and literature.

One problem with making definite and good-looking work plans for the future is that they always seem to be thrown to the ground by *reality!!* Opportunities - that cannot be thrown away - always come up, when least we expect them to.

We have just experienced two such incidents in June 2005 and have, once more, filled our "acquisition tables" with unexpected, new archival materials.

Just a few weeks ago *Clas Svahn* was contacted by *Boris Jungkvist*, veteran Swedish ufologist and author of five UFO books, who wanted to sell his collection from many decades in UFO study. We have agreed upon a deal, and on June 9, Clas and AFU board member *Håkan Blomqvist* brought the collection by car from Boris' home in south Sweden to Norrköping.

The material includes some 550 books, 75 videos, 25 audio tapes and about 20 thick folders of general material.

The latter has now been sorted into different heaps: UFO reports, correspondence, article copies, Swedish and international clippings, Swedish & foreign organizational material, book catalogues & public relations material, etc.

The UFO reports material, possibly the most valuable part of it all, has been sorted chronologically into three folders (pre-1980 cases, the 1980s, and the 1990s). Plus a 4th folder with reports from persistent "UFO repeaters".



A young Boris Jungkvist in front of his book case.

Boris Jungkvist is retiring from ufology. He decided that it would be the best for his collection to become a part of AFU. Jungkvist has written five well-received books published in 1977, 1980, 1983, 1989 and 1992. He has been the chairman of two Swedish groups: *UFO-Häggvik* and *UFO-Lufirumsbevakning*. His interest started at the age of 16, with a close encounter he had, in the company of his father and his elderly brother.

On a warm summer's day (August 18, 1949) they were taking a bath in *Lake Magelungen*, south of Stockholm, when suddenly a silent, disc-shaped saucer appeared from the north. It flew along the shore at about 75 meter's altitude and was some 100 meters from the group, when at the closest. The object had portholes spaced along a cupola. The saucer made a sudden turn and accelerated over the mountain close by the lake, disappearing into the blue heavens. As this happened, the water was agitated and hundreds of dragonflies and other insects fell into it, seemingly from the force ejected by the rising saucer.

Boris' sighting led to a lifelong interest in UFOs. He became an expert in the way the U.S. Air Force had treated the subject throughout the years, a centre-piece theme of his five books. His sharp pro-ET stance has made him come at odds with UFO-Sweden, which takes a more neutral position on the question of the UFO's origin. Despite this difference of opinion Boris has decided to allow us to manage his archives.

Another retiree from ufology is a Swedish ex-“UFO journalist” from whom AFU has now acquired his collection of letters from *John A. Keel*, a collection of books and magazines, about 200 audio tapes (including interview materials for a projected but never realized book on Swedish UFO abductions), and more than 1.000 transparencies and illustrations (mostly photos of Swedish UFO-USO experiencers). We have made the deal to save this possibly important folkloric material for the future, despite our long ideological & personal differences with this man.

It must be underlined that paying for collections is not the usual scheme we follow. The reason this has been possible in the aforementioned two cases is that we had a small fund of unused money from the Swedish & international money collection (in 2003-2004) to buy, in cooperation with the French SCEAU organization the archives of the disbanded SOS-OVNI organization, owned by *Perry Petrakis*. We made a generous formal offer for this in company with SCEAU and *Rod Dyke*'s American archive, but never received any reaction from Petrakis. With time passing, we think we are free to use this money for other important acquisitions that come up.

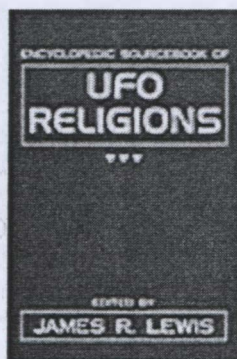
Of course, we much rather receive collections as donations (possibly with the donors instructions on how & when his/her material can be used). In these two recent cases there have been, more or less, disagreements between us and the other party, which motivated monetary contributions towards our overall goal of saving potentially important folkloric data.

For more details on recent acquisitions and donations please view our webpage at www.afu.info.

Anders Liljegren

Book reviews

The Encyclopedic Sourcebook of UFO Religions
James R. Lewis
(editor)
Prometheus Books
2003



Scholarly books which objectively and thoroughly deal with the UFO phenomenon and all its various elements are, fortunately, multiplying. And, the last few years have seen a steady rise in the books published dealing with the religious, anthropological, and sociological aspects. *The God have Landed* (1995, also edited by Lewis) brought together several outstanding scholars and their analyses and studies of religious elements within the UFO movement in general and the extraterrestrial hypothesis in particular.

The latest book from Lewis can be regarded as a sequel to the one published in 1995. *The Encyclopedic Sourcebook* examines many different new religious movements that were founded after its leader, or leaders,

in other words the contactees, received extraterrestrial messages through physical contact or telepathy and channelling.

Since the book (actually an anthology) is examining new religious movements and their ideas, the content is free from descriptions of various famous UFO sightings (which have been dealt with in numerous other books, anyway). Theories on explanations or solutions to what the UFO phenomenon really is, are also absent. So are new sightings and new revelations.

Instead, the human factor is what's being focused on, discussions about why people believe what they believe, and the positive as well as negative factors that might surface when traditional religion is being replaced by saviours from outer space.

The anthology, a massive piece with more than 500 pages, is divided into six different sections. The first section offers an overview of various religious interpretations of the UFO phenomenon, and how the flying saucer myth, with its benevolent extraterrestrials, came into existence, primarily in the United States during the latter half of the 20th century.

Section two describes two UFO religions from the 1950s that are still in existence: *The Aetherius Society* and *Unarius Academy of Science*.

Next section is devoted to movements founded in the 1970s: *The Raëlian Movement* and *Heaven's Gate*. The former is the most prominent UFO religion in contemporary society and the latter created headlines all over the world when its members and last remaining founder committed mass suicide in San Diego, California, in 1997.

After that section, the reader is offered an exposition over movements that were founded more recently: *Chan Tao* and the internet based *The Ground Crew*.

The following section is lacking direct analyses of movements, and is instead focused on how people in general view the extraterrestrial hypothesis, how contemporary religions would react to the discovery of intelligent extraterrestrial life, and how a future meeting with a cosmic intelligence would affect the Earth.

The final section is a long appendix with material gathered from some of the movements. *The Gods have Landed* ended with an extensive bibliography of contactee literature from 1950 to 1994 by *J. Gordon Melton*, but a similar or updated list cannot be found in *The Encyclopedic Sourcebook*. However, since literature produced by the movements themselves rarely or never can be found in traditional bookstores, the final section gives the reader a chance to hear from the believers themselves, and not just from the scientists who have studied them.

And speaking of the scientists, all contributors are well-known and quite respected, which makes the reading both interesting and memorable indeed. But, the book is very academic, and thus very demanding.

On numerous occasions the reader must be aware of anthropological, sociological, or religious scholarship in order to fully understand what's going on. The language can be quite a challenge, and several sections are not easy to grasp for the everyday reader. On more than one occasion the text feels somewhat repetitive, which on the

other hand can be suspected from an anthology dealing with such a specific topic.

Still, if one is able to cope with the academic English, lots and lots of goodies are to be found. The essays by *Susan Palmer* and *Michael Rothstein* about the *Raëlians* are very interesting. *Charles A. Ziegler* offers great insight into how widespread the belief in extraterrestrial intelligence is, *Robert Elwood* does a great job philosophizing about what would happen the day Contact was firmly established, and *Hilary Evans* has a splendid contribution with an essay made of easy-to-understand language and interesting approach.

John A. Saliba's essay about *Unarius*, on the other hand, is both boring and redundant, and the entire section four does not live up to the standard set by the other essays in the anthology. Overall, *The Encyclopedic Sourcebook of UFO Religions* is a breath of fresh air of reasoning and interesting scholarly analyses of new religious movements which all, in one way or the other, use the UFO phenomenon in their ideologies and promises about a better world for us all. The price tag is little over 1000 SEK, but if you think you're able to afford such a price, then you'll get a piece of scholarship well worth a place of honor in your bookshelf. **Stefan Isaksson**

UFO Religions
Christopher Partridge (editor)
Routledge, 2004

Yet another anthology about UFO religions, written by - and for - members of the realm of higher education. The anthology is divided into sections dealing with specific movements, certain elements or directions within the movements, and general analyses of different religious interpretations of the UFO phenomenon. And it is the latter sections that perhaps are most appealing to the "normal" reader, since the other sections do not offer an understanding of the whole picture, but instead focus on specific areas of religious research.

However, when it comes to religious research (and other research, as well), it's often necessary to understand all the little pieces in order to gain an understanding of the larger one, and thus all contributions in the anthology has something to offer, even the "normal" reader is likely to be able to deal with long and thorough discussions about the different karma-relations found in *UNARIUS*, how the recently deceased psychiatrist *Dr. John Mack* makes parallels between shamanistic visions and alien abductions, or the history behind the not-so well known movement *The United Nuwaubian Nation of Moors*.

For us Europeans, two sections are of particular interest. These sections deal with the history of UFO spirituality in Germany and our neighbouring country of Finland. Even though most books in the genre don't focus on North America *exclusively*; it's still a welcome change to find an in-depth discussion about the European scene. Unfortunately, no critical voice is raised against Finnish ufologist *Rauni-Leena Luukanen-Kilde*, which is rather strange since she has been one of the most severely criticised New Age ufologists.

Another dilemma is the date of the founding of *The Aetherius Society*. One chapter says it's 1954 (the same year the movement itself claims it was founded), while

another chapter argues for it to be 1956. The proof-reading has missed several typos here and there, but luckily they aren't too many and overall impression remains unaltered.

Famous psychologist *Carl Jung* and his theories about flying saucers being a modern myth is thoroughly discussed, which I must say is a welcome change, since his theories are often mentioned briefly in other books but seldom penetrated more thoroughly. His ideas about UFOs and extraterrestrials being "technological angels" are definitely worth a closer look.

Another excellent chapter rationally (and easily understood) deals with apocalyptic tendencies within the alien abduction phenomenon and also the UFO phenomenon in general, even though the author *Daniel Wojcik* from time to time has a tendency to repeat himself. It's still, though, a contribution worth reading several times, and that is not always the case with certain other contributions.

UFO Religions is, overall, an anthology very much worth reading, and it's a much cheaper alternative to *The Encyclopedic Sourcebook of UFO Religions*.

Stefan Isaksson

Picturing Extraterrestrials – Alien Images in Modern Mass Culture
John F. Moffitt
Prometheus Books 2003

It's more or less common knowledge these days to be able to describe the physical appearances of an alleged extraterrestrial. They're everywhere with their large heads, black eyes, thin bodies, short stature, et cetera. We all "know" what it looks like.

Which is very odd, indeed. Because there are no real proofs of all the talked-about close encounters. And no one has even *seen* an extraterrestrial. Except for abductees and contactees. All we have are tales, pseudoscientific literature, stories; no real and physical evidence. Yet, "everybody" more or less "knows" that an extraterrestrial looks the way he, she, or it does.

And why is that? Well, that's the question asked (and answered) by art historian *John F. Moffitt* in his little more than 550 page long book *Picturing Extraterrestrials*.

But it's not a simple read. Quite the opposite. The language is difficult, very academic, often flavoured with long and extensive quotes, sentences in Latin, and terms basically only known to devoted art historians. But at the same time it's very personal; Moffitt has a unique style of writing which makes the reading experience something out of the ordinary. Sometimes it even feels as if one is having an oral conversation with him instead of actually reading his words. One gets the feeling that it is spoken language, but the academic touch never completely disappears. The mix between strict scholarly language and down-to-Earth everyday language becomes a challenge while, at the same time, it becomes pure entertainment.

Moffitt is a skeptic, and unfortunately he – along with many other skeptics – uses the term "ufologist" in a somewhat derogatory manner. People such as the late *John Mack*, *Whitley Strieber*, *David Jacobs*, and *Budd Hopkins* – all representing the fringe side of ufology – get to represent more or less the entire discipline, which is highly unfortunate. Moffitt is completely ruthless in his criticism.

He doesn't hesitate to call *Betty Andreasson* and other contactees "pathetic", and he uses strong evidence to disregard the usage of hypnosis in order to encounter regressed memories.

After all, Moffitt says, the post modern idea regarding the traditional extraterrestrial is neither new nor much unexpected. Quite the opposite, it's a natural result from mankind's constant longing for the spiritual, the inconceivable, mystical, and occult.

Large portions of the book do not deal exclusively with extraterrestrials or UFOs, but instead focus on the origin and need for such matters as the occult, mysticism, mass hysteria, divine iconography, Swedenborgian philosophy, the input infotainment has on people in general, and much, much more. However, at the end of the day he always returns to the contemporary belief in extraterrestrial life and presence on Earth, and one of his conclusions is that it's all imagination and wishful thinking, simply due to the fact that mankind has always believed in similar stories.

The True Believer can say that this fact, on the other hand, only works to prove the opposite (that we indeed *are* being visited by those pesky little Grays), and Moffitt doesn't bother to *prove* that there are nothing new under the sun (or in space). Instead he, in a very entertaining and fascinating way, *explains* how what many Believers believe isn't very paranormal at all. It's an ancient belief, dressed in a modern outfit.

It's not a new theory, and it's not the first book about it either, but few authors manage to defend and propose it as skilfully, entertaining, and convincing as John F. Moffitt. Picturing Extraterrestrials really is a must.

Stefan Isaksson

Recent and upcoming books

- "Books that would find a home in the AFU library"

Dolores Cannon: The convoluted universe, book two. May 2005, Ozark Mountain Publishing, USA, softcover, 672 pages, ISBN 1-886940-90-8.

Robert M. Collins & Richard Doty: Exempt from disclosure: the disturbing case about the UFO cover-up. April 2005, Peregrine, USA, softcover, 192 pages, ISBN 0-9766426-0-3. (Promises to tell the truth about the Paul Bennewitz affair and other UFO-related secrets.)

Ralf Ettl & Günther Höhler: Das deutsche UFO-Phänomen. Ein Grenzgang an das anscheinend Unbegreifliche. June 2005, Causa Nostra, Germany, softcover, 160 pages, ISBN 3-9810358-1-X.

Joaquim Fernandez & Fina d'Armada: Heavenly lights – the Fatima apparitions and the UFO phenomenon. Foreword by Jacques Vallée. July 2005, EcceNova, Victoria, B.C., Canada, softcover, 284 pages, ISBN 0-9735341-3-3. (Translation of 1995 work in Portuguese)

Timothy L. Hammond: The Chillicothe UFO chronicles contact 2005. April 2005, Xlibris (print-on-demand), USA, softcover, 108 pages, ISBN 1-41346735-0. (security officer has UFO sighting over a hospital in 1983 and is drawn into a life of nightmares.)

Jan Bertil Heilund: Spenninger, syntese og spiritualitet i norsk UFO-bevegelse, saerlig eksemplifisert i organisasjonen NETIs forestillingsunivers. May 2005, doctoral thesis at the University of Bergen, 248 pages, ISBN 82-497-0283-2. (Study of a Norwegian new age & ufo movement).

Cyril Le Tallec: Les sectes ufologiques 1950-1980. April 2005, Harmattan, Paris, softcover, 139 pages, ISBN 2-7475-8367-8. (French study of UFO sects).

Roger K. Leir: UFO crash in Brazil. March 2005, The Book Tree, USA, softcover, 152 pages, ISBN 1-58509105-7. (On the Brazilian Varginha case).

Johan Lindström: Vetenskapsteori för psykologi och samhällsvetenskap med relevans för parapsykologi, UFOlogi, bioplasmateori och jordstrålningsteori. 2002, INOVA, Gothenburg, Sweden, paging unknown, ISBN 91-631-2898-5. (Non-academic work on the theory of science applied to parapsychology, ufology & borderline subjects).

Helen Littrell & Jean Bilodeaux: Raechel's eyes, volume 2: evidence of a covert alien humanization project. Dec 2004, Granite Publishing, USA, softcover, 210 pages, ISBN 1-930-72404-7.

Jean-Pierre Petit: L'année du contact. D'autres intelligences sont-elles à l'oeuvre dans l'univers? April 2004, Albin Michel, France, softcover, 160 pages, ISBN 2-22615136-2.

Antonio González Pineiro: 50 años de literatura ufológica en España. Segunda edition. 2005, the author, Spain, A4 size, 184 pages. (Bibliography of UFO books in the Spanish language, copy kindly donated to AFU by the author).

Nick Redfern: Body-snatchers in the desert. The horrible truth at the heart of the Roswell story. June 2005, Paraview Pocket Books, softcover, 256 pages, ISBN 0-74349753-8. (Is the Roswell story taking a sensational turn here?)

Robert Salas & James Klotz: Faded giant. Febr 2005, BookSurge Publishing, USA, softcover, 153 pages, ISBN 1-4196-0341-8. (UFO incidents near Malmstrom AFB where 20 nuclear missiles became inoperable).

Robert Swiatek: UFOs exposed; the classic UFO photographs. 2004, Fund for UFO Research, Mt. Rainier, Maryland, booklet, 32 pages, no ISBN. (Describes nine of the best photographic cases).

Robert Trundle: Is E.T. here? No, politically but yes, scientifically and theologically. May 2005, EcceNova, Victoria, B.C., Canada, softcover, 348 pages, ISBN 0-9735341-2-5.

Charles Upton: Cracks in the great wall: the UFO phenomenon and traditional metaphysics. 2004 Sophia Perennis, USA, softcover (also hardcover), 108 pages, ISBN 1-59731-024-7. (Seemingly, another one of those "UFOs are demonic" studies).

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